

# Environmental Health and Injury

## Key Priority Areas

### Particulate Pollution

#### Metrics

- Ambient air quality PM 2.5 concentrations Baseline: Target: Reduce by 5%
- Number of uncertified wood stoves Baseline: Need to obtain Target: Set based on baseline

#### Evidence Based Interventions (recommended practices)

- Promote use clean burning stoves with increased efficiency<sup>1</sup>
- Support policies that limit wood burning during inversion conditions and poor air quality days
- Promote the proper installation of wood stoves and optimal use of fuel (proper burn techniques)

### Community Resources

### Lead Exposure

#### Metrics

- Mean blood lead levels in children tested for lead in Lewis and Clark County Baseline: Target: 1.6 ug/dl (HP 2020 Target)
- Number of children tested for blood lead in Lewis and Clark County annually Baseline: Target

#### Evidence Based Interventions (recommended practices)

- Update or establish and enforce regulatory requirements for lead safe housing that link lead safety to the housing and/or sanitary code.
- Require that properties that have undergone lead paint abatement or substantial renovation to lead painted surfaces meet the EPA dust clearance testing prior to re-occupancy. Require dust testing in all cases where public health agencies have ordered paint repair, particularly in the homes of children already identified with elevated BLLs.
- Promote broad use of lead-safe work practices for routine painting and maintenance projects in older homes, and make training in such practices widely available at low or no cost to painters, remodelers, landlords, and maintenance workers.
- Establish formal agreements among health, social services, housing, and legal agencies to increase the sharing of data, educational information, violations, and success stories.
- Provide information to caregivers about temporary measures that can reduce lead exposure as well as information and referral for permanent abatement services
- Provide culturally appropriate education to all pregnant women and to families with young children about the principal sources of lead and ways to reduce exposure.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/ard/documents/ard-36.pdf>

- Express concern to federal, state, and local policy and decision makers that children live in a lead safe environment and actively support legislation and regulatory initiatives. Advocate for lead-safe, affordable housing by supporting appropriate legislation.
- Become aware of and comply with lead screening policies issued by Medicaid or state and local health departments.
- Ensure training of staff members engaged in housing renovation or rehabilitation in lead-safe work practices.<sup>2</sup>

## **Community Resources**

## **Driving behaviors (distracted driving, texting and seat belt use)**

### **Metrics**

- Percent of high school students who report texting or emailing while driving (YRBS).  
Baseline: 64.2% Target: 57.8%
- Percent of high school students who report never or rarely wearing a seatbelt (YRBS).  
Baseline 9.3% Target: 7.6% (national average)
- Percent of adults who report that they do not always wear a seat belt (PRC Survey):  
Baseline: 21.0% Target: 15.2% (national average)

### **Evidence Based Interventions (recommended practices)**

- Graduated drivers license laws
- Cell phone and texting laws and enforcing laws with penalties
- Seat belt and booster seat laws
- Comprehensive policy approach to create a culture of safety (e.g. Washington State)<sup>3</sup>
- Provide primary care providers with the appropriate tools to educate patients of all ages.<sup>4</sup>

## **Community Resources**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/PrevLeadPoisoning.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.astho.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=5604&linkidentifier=id&itemid=5604>

<sup>4</sup> <http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.acpm.org/resource/resmgr/Andrea-PPC/FinalPublishedPDF.pdf>

